

## **COMMUNICATION AND TRAINING DOCUMENT**

### **RANCH/FARM AGE AND SOURCE RECORD KEEPING**

**(send and/or leave this with the producer)**

The only way that age can truly be verified is through records kept on calving dates.

We must ensure documentation transfer is accurate; thus, we will be conducting onsite evaluations to verify the documents you send to us regarding animal age and source information.

The following ranch profile checklist includes those elements you might be requested to discuss and or demonstrate during an onsite evaluation to show that you have in place practices to ensure you verify animal age and the ability to represent a certain number of head as age verified.:

- ☐ What is the size of your operation?
- ☐ If you have a diverse operation and run cattle that are purchased, how do you identify them separately from calves born on your ranch/farm?
- ☐ What are your calving season windows?
- ☐ How many calves do you typically market annually?
- ☐ What processes and procedures do you have in place to verify animal age?
- ☐ What records do you keep to verify animal age?
- ☐ What records do you keep to verify animal source?
- ☐ What records do you keep to verify source animal numbers shipped and/or sold in a given year?
- ☐ Are you willing to use the tag required by the Missouri Department of Agriculture's QSA Program?
- ☐ Will you show me your cattle and take me through an example regarding how you take an individual calf or a group of calves back to age records?

#### **AGE VERIFICATION:**

##### **1. Individual Animal Age Verification (individual calf birthdates—month/day/year format)**

*If individual animal birthdates are known keep individual calving records on file for a minimum of 3 years.*

***Record Keeping Examples: calving book or electronic records***

##### **1. Group Age Verification (i.e. birthdate range)**

Calving Season Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (m/d/y) Calving Season End Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (m/d/y)

***Record Keeping Examples: documentation on a calendar (that shows the year) showing when the first calf was born and the last calf for each year (i.e. 2005) and season's (i.e. Spring) calf crop; Calving book or electronic records. Don't forget to document total number of calves born in each season.***

##### **2. Utilize a USDA Process Verified Service Data Provider and have been approved by the company for both source and age**

*Name of USDA Process Verified Data Service Provider: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Your Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_*

#### **IDENTIFICATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

3. The Missouri Department of Agriculture requires a Visual and Electronic (RFID) tag (cross-referenced) be put in each animal's ear. This tag must be in place before the calves leave the SOURCE ranch/farm
4. This tag is used to communicate to buyers that your calves age source and age verified. They will be verifying all information. If you lose a tag, you can re-apply a tag as long as the animal has not left your operation. Inform your Program of this event so that they ensure the data is accurate at all times.
5. All unused tags must either be returned or destroyed. DO NOT USE extra tags in calves next season. Otherwise it could jeopardize the entire program, and REMBER buyers will be verifying all age and source information.
6. You must have a Registered Premise to qualify.
7. The Program or the Missouri Department of Agriculture will be conducting a Supplier Evaluation to go over many of the items listed in this document to make sure you understand the requirements and that you have cattle that qualify to be marketed as age and source verified.
8. Only calves BORN on your place will qualify and you MUST HAVE CALVING RECORDS.